

JESSICA COLLINS, Chair  
WALTER R. WOLF, DPM, Vice-Chair  
KAREN WALSH PIO, LICSW, LADC 1, Clerk  
TONY JUDGE

SHARON D. HART, Public Health Director

## Board of Health Minutes

**August 12, 2020**

As Approved – September 15, 2020

Present: Jessica Collins, Chair; Karen Walsh Pio, LICSW, LADC 1, Clerk; Tony Judge; Sharon Hart, Public Health Director; Jennifer Jernigan, Assistant Public Health Director

*Jennifer Jernigan alerted all present at the virtual meeting that it was being recorded and started the recording.*

*The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by Collins.*

### **1: New Business: (a): Emergency Order to Vacate: 150 South Main Street - Ratify**

Hart reviewed the situation with 150 South Main Street and why it needed to be condemned. Hart asked the Board to ratify the condemnation. Collins accepted a motion to ratify 150 South Main Street. Walsh Pio made the motion to ratify the condemnation. Judge seconded and all were in favor. None were opposed.

### **2: Old Business: (a): Statement Regarding the North Pole Estates Subdivision, and Board of Health Authority.**

Collins and Hart finalized the draft letter today with some advisory help from Attorney Meade and Hart sent that draft to the Board of Health today before this meeting. That draft was then discussed at this meeting.

Small edits were made to the letter and all were in agreement to then have Attorney Meade review the letter before Hart sends it to the applicant at Chicopee Concrete. The dates in the letter to meet with the applicant and engineer will be changed to “next scheduled Board of Health meeting in September” until the letter is reviewed by the Attorney.

Judge wants a better format to meet with the applicant and engineer as this meeting had a lot of “echoing” going on. Collins was in agreement. Judge would like something like the Channel 15 Selectboard webcast. Hart commented that this is the same link that the Selectboard uses and the town pays for and we did not have this problem last time we met. Collins stated that the Planning Board seems to do public hearings fine without “echoing” going on.

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Judge wanted to know if the public will have an opportunity to speak at the meeting. Collins stated that if it is a “public hearing” then the meeting has to be open to the public, she believes. Hart stated that there is no permit in front of us, however, so we will have to ask Attorney Meade if it will be public hearing or not. The permit is in front of the Planning Board. Judge asked Hart to check with Attorney Meade on this. He thinks Attorney Meade stated the public should be invited – even if it is virtually. Collins and Walsh Pio were in agreement to check on this with Attorney Meade. Collins said to ask Harris in Planning on how a public hearing is done. Collins then stated that they will just wait to hear back from Hart on what Attorney Meade says and also what the IT folks say and then Hart will put forth a date in an email and they will then put that in the letter. All were in agreement.

Collins stated that she thinks they now need to take a vote on this letter. Collins stated that she will accept a motion now to finalize this letter to the applicant with regard to North Pole Estates dated August 12, 2020. Walsh Pio seconded. All were in favor: Collins, Judge and Walsh Pio. No one was opposed.

Hart will make the changes and send them to the Board and Attorney Meade.

Walsh Pio asked for a new business agenda item for the next Board of Health meeting. Collins stated that it was a perfect time to do so. We can document it in the minutes and prepare for the next agenda that way. Walsh Pio would like to discuss with the Board at the next Board of Health meeting if it is reasonable to have the Board of Health request people who attended meetings or events with about 100 people present take advantage of free COVID-19 testing in Springfield just like people did who went to protests. She is concerned about the numbers spiking in our town due to events having numbers of people above the recommended number. Hart stated that you can recommend but not require. She went on to explain what happens in terms of quarantine if there is a person who is positive that was there. Hart agreed with Walsh Pio that this topic should be brought up. The Department of Labor Standards, the Department of Public Health were well aware of an event. They gave guidance and the guidance was not followed and Hart feels that they should talk about what that looks like. There may be some orders that the Board of Health might need to sign within the next week or so regarding the event. The Department of Labor Standards was talking about fines. Communities are now being shown on the Mass.Gov COVID-19 website and if there is an uptick in cases in that community, licenses may be taken away, if this continues to happen with a facility. It will be up to the Boards to do it. Hart will send the documentation to the Board again and asks that they make sure they look at all the links in it. She stated that it is up to the Chair to set the agenda.

Judge then stated that he thinks that the Board of Health should be open to the expert testimony made available to them regarding the aquifer at Dry Brook Hill. It has already been offered but he doesn't know if the Board of Health has considered it directly. Dr. Garabedian and Dr. Al Werner are both

experts in hydrology and have already weighed in on this situation. They were presenters at the Conservancy Conference. We may want to ask for this expert testimony – have them come in and speak to us before any final decisions or applications approved, per Judge. Hart was going to discuss with Attorney Meade what date to put in the letter they drafted to meet with the applicant and engineer. It was discussed that the hydrology experts should come in and meet with the Board of Health before any public hearing or meeting with the public and/or the applicant. Collins will email them after we send out the letter to the applicant in hopes to meet with them before they have the public meeting/hearing.

Collins then asked Walsh Pio if her agenda item can wait till September. Walsh Pio asked Hart about the timeframe from the large gathering to when the Board can meet again. The large celebration was last Friday. Pio asked Hart when the best time to make this testing request, if they have been in groups larger than 100 in the past 10 days. Pio does understand that they cannot mandate it. The incubation period is usually 4-9 days but anywhere from 1-14 days is the actual incubation period, per Hart. Pio asked if the request for an ad to be put in the Town Reminder either for Friday, August 14 or August 21 would be reasonable. Collins supported this idea. Collins asked if Sharon and Jen could draft something up to get in the Town Reminder for this, if people have been in groups larger than 100. Hart responded that it does not hurt to get tested but she wants to run this request by the State first. It is more important for Hart to get the event organizer to give her the registration list. In speaking with the Department of Labor Standards, this may be a good way to go, for contact tracing. The event organizer is supposed to keep a list of all those in attendance. The person who put the event on is very important for Sharon to find out. But, we can do the ad in the Reminder too. We could list out symptoms and give the Mass.Gov website too.

Collins stated that she will send Sharon another source to add to the letter discussed earlier. No content changes.

Collins will put Walsh Pio's request on the agenda for September.

### **7: Adjournment:**

Judge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 p.m. Walsh Pio seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer J. Jernigan  
Assistant Director of Public Health

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**ATTACHMENT A**

<b>DOCUMENT</b>	<b>RECORD LOCATION</b>
Housing Condemnation Order - 150 South Main Street	BOH File
Letter from Lisa Mead, Town Counsel Dated June 9, 2020 - Role of Board of Health under Subdivision Control Law	BOH File
All Correspondence Sent to Planning Board from the Board of Health	BOH File
Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Report For South Hadley Fire District No. 2 Dated November 21, 2003	BOH File
Email dated 7-8-19 "Working Group Meeting"	BOH File
Minutes from July 29, 2020 Board of Health Meeting	BOH File and Town Website
Letter to the South Hadley Planning Board Dated June 11, 2020 From Al Werner	BOH File
Letter dated August 12, 2020 from Board of Health to Applicant - Chicopee Concrete	BOH File